

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 3260

S E C R E T KINSHASA 5644

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM VANCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS -1

TAGS: PPFOR, CG, US

SUBJECT: SECOND DISCUSSION WITH MOBUTU ON ANGOLA

REF: KINSHASA 5605

1. FOLLOWING UP ON OUR TALK YESTERDAY, I DISCUSSED ANGOLA AGAIN AT THIS MORNING'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU WITH A VIEW TO GETTING A BETTER IDEA OF HOW HE SEES THE POLITICAL SITUATION THERE WORKING OUT.

2. MOBUTU SAID THAT AS THINGS ARE GOING NOW HE DOES NOT RPT NOT THINK HOLDEN ROBERTO ALONE CAN BECOME THE MASTER OF INDEPENDENT ANGOLA. NETO HAS THE MEANS AND WILL TO PREVENT THAT. NOR DOES MOBUTU HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE THAT ANY COMPROMISE AGREEMENT SUCH AS THAT REACHED AT THE RECENT SUMMIT MEETING IN KENYA WILL WORK. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS TO BRING UP HOLDEN'S AND SAVIMBI'S MILITARY STRENGTH TO THE POINT WHERE THEY CAN BALANCE OFF NETO'S. HOPEFULLY SUCH BALANCE OF MILITARY STRENGTH WILL SERVE TO MINIMIZE THE DANGER OF BLOODSHED. IF HOLDEN AND SAVIMBI ARE NOT HELPED, NETO MAY WELL SEIZE ANGOLA.

3. MOBUTU SAID A PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE (I BELIEVE HE APPEARED TO THINK BY NETO) FOR HOLDEN, NETO AND SAVIMBI TO SHARE THE PRESIDENCY OF ANGOLA ON A

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ROTATING BASIS. HOLDEN HAD REJECTED THIS IDEA--MOBUTU

THOUGH UNWISELY--AND CONTINUES TO URGE ELECTIONS. MOBUTU THINKS ELECTIONS BY THEMSELVES WILL NOT BE A SOLUTION. WHILE HE IS CONFIDENT HOLDEN WILL WIN ELECTION, NETO WILL THEN IMMEDIATELY SCREAM FRAUD AND MOVE TO PREVENT HOLDEN FROM ASSUMING LEADERSHIP. AT THAT POINT MOBUTU, TOGETHER WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS WHO MIGHT JOIN HIM, WILL STEP IN TO PRESS FOR SAVIMBI AS A COMPROMISE.

3. MOBUTU SAID THAT, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES IN THE PAST, HOLDEN AND SAVIMBI ARE NOW WORKING WELL TOGETHER BEHIND THE SCENES. HOWEVER, MOBUTU THINKS IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT HOLDEN REFUSES TO RETURN TO ANGOLA AND MENTIONED, WITH A REGRETFUL SHAKE OF THE HEAD, THAT NOW HOLDEN IS GOING TO EUROPE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT (LUMBAGO, MOBUTU SAID). HE ADDED HOLDEN NEEDS TRUCKS, FUEL AND FOOD TO PROVIDE FOR THE 15,000 FNLA TROOPS STILL IN ZAIRE.

4. MOBUTU BELIEVES THE REFUGEES IN ZAIRE SHOULD RETURN TO ANGOLA, BUT INDICATED THIS WOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR HOLDEN TO MANAGE IF HE CAN GET THE KIND OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE HE HAS MENTIONED: MONEY, FOOD, ARMS, AMMO AND TRUCKS. REFUGEES WOULD SIMPLY MOVE BACK OVER BORDER AND WOULD MAINLY NEED FOOD UNTIL THEY CAN HARVEST NEW FOOD CROPS.

5. I REITERATED TO MOBUTU REMARKS I HAD MADE INITIALLY ON THIS SUBJECT (REFTEL), THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF THESE FURTHER VIEWS AND I WOULD REPORT THEM PROMPTLY.
ANDREW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, MILITARY PLANS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 06/24/75
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA05644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840178-1982
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750622/aaaaatmr.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 KINSHASA 5605
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND DISCUSSION WITH MOBUTU ON ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PEPR, CG, (MUTUTO SESE SEKO), (ROBERTO, HOLDEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006